

- D3 Sub 69*
- (b) nucleic acid molecules that differ from the nucleic acid molecules of (a) in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, and
- (c) complements of (a) or (b).
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- D2*
4. (Thrice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of
- (a) a unique fragment of a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1 between 20 and 3360 nucleotides in length, and
- (b) complements of (a),
- provided that the unique fragment includes a sequence of contiguous nucleotides which is not identical to any sequence selected from a sequence group consisting of
- (1) SEQ ID NO: 21, and
- (2) complements of (1).
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6. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein the unique fragment has a size selected from the group consisting of at least: 22 nucleotides, 24 nucleotides, 26 nucleotides, 28 nucleotides, 30 nucleotides, 50 nucleotides, 75 nucleotides, 100 nucleotides, and 200 nucleotides.
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- D3 Sub 69*
7. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein the molecule encodes a polypeptide or a fragment of the polypeptide thereof which binds a human antibody, wherein the polypeptide shares at least 75% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO.: 2.
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- D4 Sub 63*
26. (Thrice Amended) A kit comprising a package, wherein the package contains:
- (i) a nucleic acid agent that hybridizes to an isolated nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a molecule consisting of the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1 and which codes for a polypeptide that stimulates the growth of lens epithelial cells, wherein the stringent conditions comprise hybridization at 65°C in hybridization buffer wherein the hybridization buffer comprises 3.5 x SSC, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% polyvinyl pyrrolidone, 0.02% Bovine Serum Albumin, 2.5mM NaH₂PO₄(pH7), 0.5% SDS, and 2mM EDTA,
- (b) nucleic acid molecules that differ from the nucleic acid molecules of (a) in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, and
- (c) complements of (a) or (b),
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